8th September 1928]

Teaching of agriculture in elementary schools.

*255 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the success of the attempt to teach horticulture in the Secondary Training School in Mangalore ;

(b) whether horticulture is now taught in any of the elementary schools in the Presidency ;

(c) whether some years back Agricultural Instructors were appointed in a few training schools and whether this experiment was given up after a short trial, and, if so, why ; and

(d) whether the Government propose to consider the desirability of appointing agricultural graduates on the staff of the elementary training schools so as to give an agricultural bias to the teaching in elementary schools ?

A.—(a) The manual training class in horticulture in the Government Training school, Mangalore, is reported to be working satisfactorily.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) Yes. It has been held that 'agriculture' as such should not be taught in elementary schools but that these schools should impart instruction in nature study or elementary rural science. Elementary school teachers undergoing training in training schools receive instruction in nature study ; the subject is taught by a member of the staff of the training school and the employment of a separate agricultural instructor is not necessary for this purpose.

(d) No.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" With reference to the answer to clauses (c) and (d), are the Government satisfied that the reply given is in consonance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I have not had the time yet to extensively peruse the report of the Royal Agricultural Commission."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" In answer to clause (b), they say the Government have no information. May I inquire why on such an important subject the Government cannot get the information ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" It is very difficult to get information on this point because the elementary schools are so many in number, spread over the whole Presidency."

Teaching of agriculture in middle schools.

*256 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to my question No. 829 (b) on 31st March 1927 regarding the teaching of agriculture in middle schools—

(a) whether the Director of Public Instruction has submitted proposals for imparting instruction in the elements of agriculture in selected higher elementary and middle schools in the Presidency ; and